

John 12:1-8

*Jesus answered, "Leave her alone; she has kept it for the day of my burial. For **you always have the poor with you,** but you do not always have Me."*

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

*"If there is a poor person among you, one of your brothers within any of your city gates in the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Instead, you are to open your hand to him and freely loan him enough for whatever need he has. Be careful that there isn't this wicked thought in your heart, 'The seventh year, the year of canceling debts, is near,' and you are stingy toward your poor brother and give him nothing. He will cry out to the Lord against you, and you will be guilty. Give to him, and don't have a stingy heart when you give, and because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you do. **For there will never cease to be poor people in the land; that is why I am commanding you, 'Open your hand willingly to your poor and needy brother in your land.'**"*



The
Least
Of These

Whose Responsibility?

The *Least*
Of These

New Testament Pattern For Local Church Benevolence

The local church is only seen using its funds for the purpose of helping needy saints.

Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-35; 6:1-6; 11:27-30;
Romans 15:25-27; I Cor. 16:1-4;
II Cor. 8:1-5; II Cor. 9:1-13;
I Timothy 5:1-10

We only have examples of the money being sent directly to those who are in need.

Collective Action - God's Money

The Responsibility of the Local Church's Collected Funds

New Testament Commands To Show Love To Neighbor

Jesus teaches us to show love & care for the needy people of this world.

Matthew 5:42; 22:37-39;
Luke 10:30-37; 12:33,34;
14:12-14; 18:18-23

This benevolent attitude continues to be emphasized in the New Testament letters.

Galatians 6:10; I Timothy 6:17-19;
James 1:27

Individual Action - My Money

The Responsibility of Each Individual Disciple's Funds

Strong Warnings!

The
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Of These

Matthew 7:21-23

“...Not every who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven... ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?...
Depart from me, you lawbreakers!”

Matthew 25:31-46

“Then he will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you didn’t take me in; I was naked and you didn’t clothe me, sick and in prison and you didn’t take care of me.’ “Then they too will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or without clothes, or sick, or in prison, and not help you?’ “Then he will answer them, **‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’**”